



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Parks and Recreation Minutes 09/13/2005

Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED - Meeting Minutes

Present: Mr. Joseph Carabello, Mr. Thomas Caccavaro, Ms. Nancy Campbell,
Ms. Leslie Mayer

Staff: Mr. Jonathan Jalbert, Recreation Superintendent

Recording Secretary: Laura Munsey

1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Carabello welcomed the Commissioners and Guests to the September 13th meeting. He informed the guests that due to direction from the Town Manager, the Commission will not be discussing Dog Parks in town and that it is not an agenda item for this meeting.

MOTION: (Made by Ms. Mayer, 2nd by Ms. Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE JUNE 14, 2005 MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (4-0) IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION

MOTION: (Made by Ms. Mayer, 2nd by Ms. Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION SHALL TABLE THE APPROVAL OF THE JULY 26, 2005 MEETING MINUTES.

VOTE: 2-1 IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION (WITH 1 ABSTENTION)
(Ms. Mayer and Ms. Campbell in the affirmative, Mr. Caccavaro in the negative,
Mr. Carabello abstained)

2. Andrew Leonard – Feasibility Study Review on Bishop & Menotomy Rocks Park

Mr. Leonard of Leonard Associates provided the Commissioners with the budget cost estimates for the Bishop School Field Renovation, and Menotomy Rocks Park Renovations. Based on original proposed budgets the estimates came in high for both projects, and additional funding may be required to complete the requested work, or modifications to the renovation projects may be required. Mr. Leonard expressed concern, regarding the flooding issues surrounding the Bishop School Neighborhood. It is recommended that a drainage study be conducted for this site, which he worked into his cost estimates. Consultation with DPW will be required.

Work at Menotomy Rocks Park included estimates for Field Renovations, Pond Area, Jason Street Entry, and General Site

Improvements. Work surrounding the Pond will require consultation with the Conservation Commission and a N.O.I will need to be submitted. Ms. Rowe of the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park addressed the Commission and thanked them and Mr. Leonard for their continued efforts and shared their desire to work with the Commission in looking for additional funding sources. Mr. John Sanchez, Director of DPW, will be consulted regarding renovations that may be completed by the Town through DPW (i.e. water/sewer lines, hydrants, lighting, etc.). Ms. Rowe also informed the Commission that the Arlington Catholic High School Cross Country Track Team had marked some trees with orange paint. It was reported that Ms. Foskett had spoken to the Coach and he apologized for the error and stated the team would work to correct the problem.

3. Spy Pond Opening

Mr. Jonathan Jalbert, Recreation Superintendent, updated the Commission on the Spy Pond Progress and recommended that the Park remain closed until the Spring. Concerns were addressed regarding Town Night which is scheduled for September 16th, where hundreds of People may attempt to congregate along the shores of spy pond to view the Fireworks Display. Mr. Jalbert notified Chief Ryan of the Arlington Police Department, and they will do their best to enforce the policy of “no admittance – Park Closed”.

MOTION (made by Ms. Mayer, 2nd by Ms. Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION SHALL POSTPONE THE OPENING OF SPY POND SHORES UNTIL MAY 2006.

VOTE: Unanimous (4-0) in favor of the motion.

4. Capital Project Updates

Waldo Park – Community build was held on September 10th and 11th. Mr. Jalbert expressed his thanks to the Friends group for running a well-organized event, and for their fundraising efforts.

Locke Park – Game Time Personnel will be installing the playground equipment at Locke. Minor problems with the front wall were identified and will be resolved.

Crosby Tennis Courts – Renovations have been completed and the Courts have been opened. Financial Settlement has been resolved for this project and the town is pleased with the outcome. Documentation was presented to the Commissioners regarding this resolution.

Robbins Farm – See-saw and barrels have been delivered to the Recreation Center. Memorial Tree and stone have not been relocated and will not be until the project has been signed off on.

North Union Playground – Mr. Jalbert is working with an Architect. Additional sand was installed as a safety procedure, and Mr. Jalbert requested a follow-up inspection by DPW and requested additional sand if needed. Ms. Campbell reported that a group had a request for additional sand at the Summer Street Playground, which Mr. Jalbert stated he will arrange.

Reservoir Dam Project – Ms. Mayer updated Commission and provided pictorial documentation of the project.

Capital Requests are due to the Town Managers Office by Friday September 16th and should project through 2011. The Commissioners reviewed copies of the previous Capital Plan. Mr. Jalbert will consult with Ms. Galkowski, Deputy Town Manager, and will follow up with the Commissioners regarding the required time-frame and schedule. A special Capital Planning Meeting may be required.

5. Committee Updates

Field Policy Committee – No Scheduling problems or concerns for the Fall Season

Field Maintenance and User Fee Committee – Next meeting scheduled for October 6, 2005.

Sports Center Improvement Committee – Meeting scheduled next week.

Open Space Committee – No Report

6. Recreation and Rink Update

Mr. Jalbert informed the Commission that Mr. David Cunningham has joined the Recreation Staff as the new Maintenance Craftsman. The Rink opened on time and the first skate was Tuesday September 6th, 2005. In the off-season the ice bed was painted, the glycol pump has been replaced, the glycol storage tank has been installed, a hydro-test was conducted and came back favorable, the lobby and locker rooms were painted, the skate room was renovated, and the concession stand has been expanded.

The reservoir pipe has been fixed, but the break caused the Reservoir to close a week early. Capital improvements will be needed at this older facility. The reservoir season was successful and improvement made including a new cash register, hours extended until 8:00 pm throughout August, and swimming was allowed for all patrons upon entry (in designated area). Mr. Jalbert reported that overall participation numbers for recreation summer camps remained stable and increased slightly.

Arlington Recreation provided less sub-contracted programs, and introduced "Menotomy Sports Clinics" which proved to be very successful. Marketing was increased through the efforts of Heather Hogle, which also proved successful.

7. Equal Access and Opportunities at Recreation Facilities

It is the desire of the Commission and the commitment of the Commission to provide equal access and equal opportunities to all participants and user groups of Recreational Facilities and Programs under the jurisdiction of the Town of Arlington, Recreation Division. At the request of the Commission, Mr. Jalbert was instructed to draft a policy in collaboration with members of the Commission, which shall be presented to John Maher, Legal Counsel for the Town of Arlington, for review regarding this topic. Mr. Jalbert will report back to the Commission.

8. Correspondence Received

Ms. Gonzales of Great Expectations Preschool submitted a permit request for the playground at Robbins Farm for Wednesday September 21, 2005 from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm, with a rain date scheduled for the following evening.

MOTION (made by Ms. Mayer, 2nd by Ms. Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE PERMIT REQUEST MADE BY GREAT EXPECTATIONS PRESCHOOL FOR AN EVENT AT ROBBINS FARM PLAYGROUND FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2005.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (4-0) in favor of the motion.

Ms. Jenn Rothenberg of the Friends of Robbins Farm Park submitted a permit request for Robbins Farm for Friday, September 30th to show a broadcast of the Red Sox/Yankees Game. They will begin set up at 5:30 pm for a 7:05 pm game, and will be off site by 11:00 pm. Mr. Jalbert will inform any user groups of this event and update the special events calendar.

MOTION (made by Ms. Mayer, 2nd by Ms. Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE PERMIT REQUEST MADE BY THE FRIENDS OF ROBBINS FARM TO HOLD A SPECIAL EVENT ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th 2005 FROM 5:30 pm – 11:00 pm

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (4-0) in favor of the motion.

9. Other

Mr. Jalbert distributed the draft Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule for the 2005-2006 Season.

MOTION (made by Ms. Mayer, 2nd by Ms. Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE 2005-2006 MEETING SCHEDULE AS AMENDED.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (4-0) in favor of the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm